

BENSLOW MUSIC COURSES



AUGUST–DECEMBER
2026

benslowmusic.org

WELCOME

Welcome to our August to December 2026 programme which is brimming with musical discovery, creativity and connection.

Whether you're looking to explore new repertoire, refine your technique, or simply relish the joy of playing again, our courses offer a supportive space to grow as a musician and meet others who share your passion.

In our latest offering, we journey through baroque music for strings, jazz big bands, vocal masterclasses and many more. As you look through the programme, you'll discover much-loved favourites alongside exciting new courses bringing new tutors and ideas to our campus.

We're proud to nurture a community where music-making can thrive in all its forms, from first discovery to lifelong learning. Come and take a musical adventure with us.

Michael Duffy
Chief Executive



BOOKING INFORMATION

Browse the full programme at benslowmusic.org

Book your place online or call us on 01462 459446 (Monday–Sunday, 9am–5pm).

Payment

Deposits are due within seven days of your booking confirmation, with balances due one month before the course commences. Please note your course place is not secured until the deposit has been paid.

Under 27s

Course members under 27 at time of booking receive a 25% discount on standard course fees (not including room supplements). Under 27s also get half-price tickets for concerts. Keep an eye on our website for what's coming up.

Anyone aged under 18 who would like to join a course will need to speak to us in advance.

Bursaries

We recognise that some people have financial circumstances that can make taking part in a course challenging. Thanks to the support of generous donors, our bursary scheme is available for anyone who can demonstrate a need for support.

Bursaries normally cover up to 50% of a standard course fee. You can find out more and apply on our website.

Terms and Conditions

Full details of what is included in our course fees and our Terms and Conditions can be found at benslowmusic.org

NEW THIS SEASON

Advanced Violin Summer School 10–14 August **pg 9**

Elementary Winds 28–30 September **pg 16**

Exploring Lieder 28 September–1 October **pg 16**

Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble 9–11 October **pg 17**

Discovery Day: Harpsichord for Pianists 31 October **pg 22**

17th-Century Strings 9–12 November **pg 22**

Festive Big Band: Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite 4–6 December **pg 26**

Ability Levels

Each course lists the musical and instrument ability level needed to join the course. These are the equivalent to following the ABRSM exam grades:

- Skilful – beyond Grade 8
- Confident – Grades 6–8
- Improver – Grades 3–5
- Learner – Grades 1–2

Head to our website for full details of ability levels including repertoire examples, and contact us if you would like to discuss whether a particular course is for you.

Course Timetable

Many of our courses follow a similar timetable, starting at 5.30pm on the first day and finishing at 4pm on the last day.

Please see our website to confirm your course start and finish times, and to explore the sessions in our standard timetable.



What's Included

When you book a course with us, you can expect:

- expert tuition
- home-cooked meals
- free parking and WiFi
- fresh towels and toiletries
- hot drinks, cake and biscuits
- access to beautiful gardens
- access to our music library
- a fully licensed bar
- a community of like-minded musicians.

Become a Benslow Member

Be at the front of the queue and enjoy priority access to all our courses when you join as a Benslow Music member.

In addition, you'll be part of a vibrant community of musicians. Current benefits of membership are:

- Priority booking for courses
- Exclusive members' newsletter
- Book free practice space before the start of a course (subject to availability)
- Year-round access to the Benslow Music library
- Cancel or transfer your course place without administration fees*

As a charity, your support helps us bring the joys and benefits of music to an ever-growing audience. Visit our website to find out more.

*Terms and conditions apply. See our website for details.



Dates	Course	Ability	Page	Type
August				
2-7 Aug	Big Band Summer School	C S	8	W P B J
3-7 Aug	The Art of Jazz Vocals	C S	8	V J
3-5 Aug	Blues Piano Basics	I C S	8	P J
7-9 Aug	Light Orchestra (Palm Court)	C S	8	S W P B O
7-10 Aug	Baroque Buffet	I C S	9	S W P E
10-14 Aug	Martin Outram's Viola Summer School	S	9	S
10-14 Aug	Advanced Violin Summer School NEW	S	9	S
14-17 Aug	Intermediate Chamber Orchestra	C I	9	S W B O
17-21 Aug	Summer Winds and Piano	C	10	W P B
17-20 Aug	Summer Saxes	I C S	10	W
24-27 Aug	Bach Cello Suites	C S	10	S
31 Aug-3 Sep	Exploring String Chamber Music	C S	10	S
September				
4-6 Sep	Oboe Weekend with Philip Haworth	C S	12	W
4-6 Sep	Clarinet Weekend	I C S	12	W
7-10 Sep	Late Starter Cello Retreat	L I	12	S
7-10 Sep	Off the Page and Onto the Stage	C S	12	V
10-13 Sep	Madrigals and Partsongs	I C S	13	V E
11-13 Sep	Folk Orchestra	I C	13	S W P F O
14-17 Sep	Latin Jazz Fest	I C S	13	S W P B J O
14-17 Sep	Flutes Inspired	I C	13	W
18-20 Sep	String and Piano Ensembles with Primrose Quartet	C S	14	S P
21-24 Sep	Late Starter Piano	L I	14	P
21-23 Sep	Improve Your Sight Reading	C S	14	T
25-27 Sep	Stephanie Reeve's Woodwind Band	I C S	14	W B
25-27 Sep	A Chance to Sing: Musicals in Britain, 1900-1970	L I C S	16	V
28-30 Sep	Elementary Winds NEW	L I	16	W
28 Sep-1 Oct	Cello Workshop	I C S	16	S

Dates	Course	Ability	Page	Type
October				
2-4 Oct	Exploring Lieder NEW	C S	16	V
2-4 Oct	String Trios	C S	17	S
5-8 Oct	Autumn Mixed Chamber Music	S	17	S W P B
9-11 Oct	Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble NEW	C S	17	E
12-15 Oct	Autumn Intermediate Strings	I C	17	S
12-15 Oct	Insightful Pianism	C S	19	P
16-18 Oct	Mixed Chamber Trios	C S	19	M S W P
16-18 Oct	The Clarsach and Folk Harp Course	I C S	19	F O
19-22 Oct	The Wonderful World of Musical Theatre	I C S	19	V
19-22 Oct	Leading From Behind	C S	20	S W P B
23-26 Oct	Baroque Trios Sonatas with ZAREKTrio	C S	20	E
23-25 Oct	Autumn Saxes	I C S	20	W
30 Oct-1 Nov	Symphony in a Weekend: Mendelssohn's 'Scottish'	C S	20	S W B O
31 Oct	Discovery Day: Harpsichord for Pianists NEW	I C S	22	P E
November				
2-5 Nov	Chamber Music for Wind and Piano	S	22	W P B
6-8 Nov	Piano Duets with Nigel and Imma	C S	22	P
9-12 Nov	17th-Century Strings NEW	C S	22	S E
9-12 Nov	Bassoon Extravaganza	I C S	23	W
13-15 Nov	String Quartets with Coull Quartet	C S	23	S
13-16 Nov	String Quartets with Coull Quartet	C S	23	S
16-19 Nov	Speed Dating for Strings and Piano	S	23	S P
16-19 Nov	Quintessential Clarinets	I C S	23	W
19-22 Nov	Consorted Viols (3-night option)	C S	25	S E
20-22 Nov	Consorted Viols (2-night option)	C S	25	S E
20-22 Nov	Mostly Gilbert and Sullivan	I C S	25	V
23-25 Nov	Recorder Festival	L I C S	25	W
27-29 Nov	Wind Ensembles with London Myriad	C S	25	W B
29 Nov	Winter Late Starter String Orchestra Day	L I	26	S

Visit our website for full details of ability levels, including repertoire examples. If you are unsure about your ability level, please contact us and we will be happy to help.

S Skilful (beyond Grade 8)

C Confident (Grades 6-8)

I Improver (Grades 3-5)

L Learner (Grades 1-2)

C Composition

E Early Music

F Folk/Traditional

J Jazz

M Mixed

T Theory / Composition

O Other

B Brass

P Piano/Keyboard

S Strings

V Vocal/Choral

W Woodwind

Dates	Course	Ability	Page	Type
November				
30 Nov–3 Dec	Group Quartets with Tedesca Quartet	C S	26	S
30 Nov–2 Dec	Christmas Flutes	L I C S	26	W
December				
4–6 Dec	Festive Big Band: Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite NEW	C S	26	J
4–6 Dec	A Victorian Christmas Weekend	L I C S	28	M
7–9 Dec	Jazz Improvisation for Improvers	I C S	28	J
7–10 Dec	Spontaneous Social Piano	I C S	28	P
11–13 Dec	String and Piano Ensembles with Bingham Quartet and Nigel Clayton	C S	28	S P
11–14 Dec	String and Piano Ensembles with Bingham Quartet and Nigel Clayton	C S	28	S P

Details correct at time of printing. Please see our website for the most up to date information.



Big Band Summer School

Summer Jazz School

Sunday 2 – Friday 7 Aug

Type Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Brass, Jazz

Tutor Paul Eshelby and Friends

Ability Confident, Skilful

Don't miss this opportunity to share in your love of the Big Band sound with expert coaching from Paul Eshelby who has played with everyone from Ella Fitzgerald to Phil Collins, Shirley Bassey and George Benson. You'll be in fantastic hands as he guides you through a range of glorious jazz and Big Band songs from the 1940s to today.

A ticket to A Night of Jazz with Paul Eshelby and Friends is included in your course.

£897 (£710) **26/502**

The Art of Jazz Vocals

Summer Jazz School

Monday 3 – Friday 7 Aug

Type Vocal/choral, Jazz

Tutor Jenny Howe and Anton Browne

Ability Confident, Skilful

Join this inspiring course for a deep dive into the art of jazz vocals. Craft your own cabaret style set to showcase your unique voice, and experience the thrill of singing live with our resident Big Band course. You'll develop specific jazz vocal techniques and approaches, study the art of stagecraft and presentation, and discover how to make popular songs your own.

Course fee includes a ticket to A Night of Jazz with Paul Eshelby and Friends, here at Benslow Music on the Wednesday evening.

£751 (£593) **26/402**

Blues Piano Basics

Summer Jazz School

Monday 3 – Wednesday 5 Aug

Type Piano/Keyboard, Jazz

Tutor Tim Richards

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

This hands-on course is perfect for piano players looking to develop their blues musicality. Dive into the soundworld of the blues and learn pieces by celebrated jazz and boogie-woogie pianists. You'll learn about the twelve bar blues and work solo and in duet with fellow course members, to cover improvisation techniques, harmony and chord sequences.

£426 (£310) **26/243**

Extended stay option

Course, concert and extra night (Mon 3 – Thu 6 Aug)

£516 (£386) **26/334**

Light Orchestra (Palm Court)

Friday 7 – Sunday 9 Aug

Type Strings, Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Brass, Other

Tutors Roger Moon and Miriam Kramer

Ability Confident, Skilful

Enjoy a rare opportunity to re-create a grand era and style of music easy which is on the ear and satisfying to the players. This wide range of accessible music – light, popular and classical – had its heyday around 1900-1960 in Light and Palm Court orchestras. Rehearsals will be demanding and fun! Typical features of the style such as phrasing, rhythmic freedom and expressiveness will be emphasised.

£426 (£310) **26/244**

Baroque Buffet

Friday 7 – Monday 10 Aug

Type Strings, Woodwind,
Piano/Keyboard, Early Music

Tutors Julia Bishop, Sophie Middleditch
and David Pollock

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Played on modern instruments and taught as A=440, you'll explore a rich variety of Baroque repertoire written for different combinations of strings and wind instruments, enjoying the elegance of the French style, the lyricism of Italian, and the drama of German Baroque music. Along the way, you'll deepen your understanding of rhetoric, gesture, articulation, and ornamentation and how these ideas bring the music vividly to life on modern instruments.

£606 (£461) **26/335**

Martin Outram's Viola Summer School

Monday 10 – Friday 14 Aug

Type Strings

Tutors Martin Outram, Nicolette
Moonen and Julian Rolton

Ability Skilful

Join a dynamic week of viola masterclasses, solo and ensemble sessions for advanced players at conservatoire level or above. Explore a wide range of repertoire, receive expert guidance on technique and interpretation, learn Baroque performance practices, and rehearse your chosen pieces with pianist Julian Rolton in a friendly, supportive setting.

£741 (£583) **26/403**

Advanced Violin Summer School New

Monday 10 – Friday 14 Aug

Type Strings

Tutor Gina McCormack
and Jordi Bitlloch

Ability Skilful

Gina McCormack will guide you in all areas of technique and interpretation in a series of friendly, informal masterclasses and private lessons. Pianist Jordi Bitlloch will also be available to rehearse repertoire of your choice for violin and piano. This is an ideal opportunity to work on improving your interpretation and your duo skills, as well as delving deeper into anything technical you need help with individually.

£741 (£583) **26/404**

Intermediate Chamber Orchestra

Friday 14 – Monday 17 Aug

Type Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Other

Tutors Uchenna Ngwe, Nathan
Knight and Dave Oxley

Ability Improver, Confident

Take your orchestral playing to new heights under the guidance of musicians from Decus Ensemble. Make exciting musical discoveries and build your confidence as we explore repertoire from classical overtures to contemporary works by composers from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

£606 (£461) **26/336**

Summer Winds and Piano

Monday 17 – Friday 21 Aug

Type Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Brass

Tutors Anne Clarke, Chris Hankin, John
Human, Rachel Kilby, Martin
Lawrence, Jean McCreery

Ability Confident

Our Summer Winds & Piano course offers the joy of ensemble playing for wind players and pianists, featuring quintets, sextets, duets, trios, and – new this year – large mixed wind ensemble sessions. Expect to cover a wide range of music, giving you the chance to explore different styles, instrument combinations and levels of difficulty.

£741 (£583) **26/406**

Summer Saxes

Monday 17 – Thursday 20 Aug

Type Woodwind

Tutors Gerard McChrystal and
Alastair Penman

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Celebrate the joyful and varied sound of the saxophone in this relaxed course where you'll get to play in different group sizes from quartets to whole saxophone choirs, across all kinds of music from jazz and classical repertoire to pop.

£606 (£461) **26/337**

Bach Cello Suites

Monday 24 – Thursday 27 Aug

Type Strings

Tutor Jenny Curtis

Ability Confident, Skilful

Discover the joy and beauty of Bach's Cello Suites. Composed between 1717 – 1723, these six suites are some of the most enduring and loved solo cello pieces ever written. Join cellist and tutor Jenny Curtis to explore a suite of your choice in this group masterclass and immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Bach's music. Together we'll gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of these masterpieces, so you'll leave with a fresh confidence in your playing.

£606 (£461) **26/339**

Exploring String Chamber Music

Monday 31 Aug – Thursday 3 Sep

Type Strings

Tutor Nic Fallowfield, Clare Bhabra,
Richard Muncey and Jenny Curtis

Ability Confident, Skilful

Discover a rich variety of string chamber repertoire and experience the thrill of playing together with other musicians in this welcoming course. You'll get the chance to work closely with other players in a wide variety of groupings from trios and quartets to sextets, with helpful guidance throughout

Come away feeling inspired, with greater confidence in your playing.

£606 (£461) **26/340**



Oboe Weekend with Philip Haworth

Friday 4 – Sunday 6 Sep

Type Woodwind

Tutors Philip Haworth

Ability Confident, Skilful

Join Philip Haworth, oboist in the Atéa Quintet and member of the contemporary classical Riot Ensemble, for this immersive weekend designed to take your oboe playing to the next level. Philip will guide you through healthy warmups and enjoyable exercises to help you develop your technique and gain confidence as a player. We will work on solo repertoire and oboe ensemble pieces to achieve an improved ear for intonation, learning to listen and respond to your fellow musicians.

£426 (£310) **26/245**

Clarinet Weekend

Friday 4 – Sunday 6 Sep

Type Woodwind

Tutor Margaret Archibald, David Campbell, John Flinders

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Immerse yourself in a joyful weekend of music-making, and experience a wide range of clarinet playing, with sessions dedicated to ensemble playing in quartets and a full clarinet choir. Expect help with note accuracy and counting, to intonation, tone quality and interpretation. You'll also get a short private piano rehearsal with John Flinders - renowned for his interpretation of clarinet and piano repertoire - to develop your solo playing skills.

£426 (£310) **26/246**

Late Starter Cello Retreat

Monday 7 – Thursday 10 Sep

Type Strings

Tutor Jenny Curtis

Ability Learner, Improver

Unleash your creativity in this joyful weekend course. If you are just starting out in your cello playing journey, this is the perfect opportunity to spend a weekend playing alongside other like-minded musicians. We'll work together in a large group, so you can experience playing a range of exciting music together with other cellists in an ensemble. You'll discover techniques to help you practice more effectively, and leave with a renewed confidence in your ability, inspired to keep growing.

£606 (£461) **26/341**

Off the Page and Onto the Stage

Monday 7 – Thursday 10 Sep

Type Vocal/choral

Tutor Madeleine Holmes and Thomas Coltman

Ability Confident, Skilful

The course is individually tailored to each singer, and focuses on how to embody your singing, exploring physicality, creativity, character, imagination, psychology and vocal expression. By workshopping your learned works with a focus on performance, you'll be able to develop your dramatic intention and character embodiment, and take your communicative power as a singer to a whole new level.

£606 (£461) **26/342**

For full course details, head to benslowmusic.org

Madrigals and Partsongs

Thursday 10 – Sunday 13 Sep

Type	Vocal/choral
Tutor	James Oldfield and Simon Gregory
Ability	Improver, Confident, Skilful

Immerse yourself in the joyful harmonies and rich textures of madrigals and partsongs. First made popular in the 16th century by English composer William Byrd, these enduring secular songs exemplify the beauty of the human voice.

Learn the art of consort singing with expert tutors James Oldfield and Simon Gregory and enjoy quality music making in an inclusive and relaxed atmosphere. We'll dive into this rich song tradition, covering a range of languages, vocal parts, styles and periods, so you'll leave with a deeper understanding and appreciation of madrigals and partsongs over the centuries.

£606 (£461) **26/343**

Folk Orchestra

Friday 11 – Sunday 13 Sep

Type	Strings, Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Folk/Traditional, Other
Tutor	Jon Bennett and Jacqui Johnson
Ability	Improver, Confident

Join fellow acoustic instrumentalists from classical and folk traditions for a unique orchestra weekend led by Jon Bennett and Jacqui Johnson of Moonrakers. Explore the rich folk tradition through diverse styles, theory and improvisation in both large and small groups. All acoustic instruments are welcome - fiddles, fretted instruments, whistles, flutes, squeeze boxes, melodeons, and more. Evenings feature relaxed sessions where everyone shares tunes and songs in true folk style.

£426 (£310) **26/247**

PRICING: Residential rates are shown in bold. Non-residential rates are shown in brackets.

Latin Jazz Fest

Monday 14 – Thursday 17 Sep

Type	Strings, Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Brass, Jazz, Other
Tutor	Joy Ellis and Adam Osmianski
Ability	Improver, Confident, Skilful

Join experienced jazz players Joy Ellis and Adam Osmianski as they guide you through the incredible soundworld of Latin Jazz, with a focus on Cuban and Brazilian music. You'll explore the defining characteristics and traditional approaches of Latin Jazz in both large and small ensembles. You'll also get the chance to try your hand at playing native percussion instruments from Latin America.

£606 (£461) **26/344**

Flutes Inspired

Monday 14 – Thursday 17 Sep

Type	Woodwind
Tutor	Elisabeth Parry and John Alley
Ability	Improver, Confident

Tutor Elisabeth Parry specialises in helping adult flute players get the most out of their instrument, developing technique and musicianship in a warm and supportive environment. Elisabeth will make sure everyone is supported throughout and can participate in a meaningful way.

We'll cover technique and musicality in masterclasses and chamber music sessions, plus you'll get the opportunity to develop a solo work with piano accompaniment to perform in a relaxed and supportive final sharing concert.

£606 (£461) **26/345**

String and Piano Ensembles with Primrose Quartet

Friday 18 – Sunday 20 Sep

Type	Strings, Piano/Keyboard
Tutor	Susanne Stanzeleit, Andrew Fuller, John Thwaites with Martin Outram
Ability	Confident, Skilful

This hands-on workshop offers an exciting chance to work with members of the Primrose Piano Quartet and guest Martin Outram to improve upon your playing as an ensemble, focusing on your choice of repertoire. You can choose between traditional coaching, or for a tutor to join your group and coach from their instrument

The course also includes a concert from the Primrose Piano Quartet on the Friday evening, and an entertaining group workshop.

£436 (£320) **26/248**

Late Starter Piano

Monday 21 – Thursday 24 Sep

Type	Piano/Keyboard
Tutor	Lucinda Mackworth-Young
Ability	Learner, Improver

Guided by the experienced pianist and psychologist Lucinda Mackworth-Young, you'll explore the many aspects of piano musicality, playing both by ear, and from notation, as well as improvisation and accompaniment. The course is focussed on how to enjoy your piano playing as much as possible, so you'll leave feeling enriched and creatively inspired. Sessions are tailored to you, to help you achieve your musical goals. You'll be asked to bring a selection of repertoire you enjoy playing from any genre.

£606 (£461) **26/346**

For full course details, head to benslowmusic.org

Improve Your Sight Reading

Monday 21 – Wednesday 23 Sep

Type	Theory/Composition
Tutor	Paul Harris
Ability	Confident, Skilful

Paul Harris, one of the UK's most respected teachers and author of the Improve Your Sight Reading series, leads this course designed to help musicians of approximately Grade 6 standard and above with their sight-reading skills through the holistic process of Simultaneous Learning. The course will help participants develop all the techniques required to sight-read with confidence and Paul will offer his unique approach to get you on the right track. All instruments welcome.

£426 (£310) **26/249**

Stephanie Reeve's Woodwind Band

Friday 25 – Sunday 27 Sep

Type	Woodwind, Brass
Tutor	Stephanie Reeve and George Sleightholme
Ability	Improver, Confident, Skilful

Led by the infectiously enthusiastic Stephanie Reeve and George Sleightholme, you'll be introduced to a variety of musical repertoire for ensemble, learning and workshoping the pieces with expert guidance throughout. Enjoy playing both popular and lesser known music in a range of styles, from Baroque pieces to contemporary and world music.

Stephanie and George will also teach technical skills to help improve your playing, from breathing and posture to musicianship and interpretation. The main focus is the large ensemble.

£426 (£310) **26/250**



A Chance to Sing: Musicals in Britain, 1900-1970

Friday 25 – Sunday 27 Sep

Type Vocal/choral

Tutor Roger Moon

Ability Learner, Improver, Confident, Skilful

Journey through musical theatre entertainment in Britain, from the last glories of Edwardian comic opera to the innovative shows of Lionel Bart and others. We'll be taking in First World War patriotism, have a glance at the American invasion of the Jazz Age, get to know some of the home-grown writers and stars of the 1930s and 40s, enjoy the escapist nostalgia of the 1950s and more. We will be singing some of the most memorable songs from the various shows, songs with charm, feeling and ingenuity in both music and lyrics.

£426 (€310) 26/271

Elementary Winds New

Monday 28 – Wednesday 30 Sep

Type Woodwind

Tutor Alison Eales and
Debbie Barnes

Ability Learner, Improver

The course offers supportive, relaxed experience for woodwind players, guided by friendly tutors. No ensemble experience is needed, making it ideal for beginners, though experienced players are also welcome. You'll play music arranged for woodwind groups, explore various styles, learn to sightread and blend with other players. Most importantly, the course aims to build your confidence and enjoyment in playing.

£426 (€310) 26/251

For full course details, head to benslowmusic.org

Cello Workshop

Monday 28 Sep – Thursday 1 Oct

Type Strings

Tutor Jenny Curtis and
Charles Matthews

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Build confidence as a solo cellist in this relaxed workshop with tutor Jenny Curtis. You'll refine your solo playing, explore musicality, and learn practical techniques to overcome technical challenges. In a friendly group setting, you'll support one another while preparing for exams, performances, or showcases. Bring any music you'd like to work on.

£606 (€461) 26/348

Exploring Lieder New

Vienna Weekend

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 Oct

Type Vocal/choral

Tutor Anna Tilbrook

Ability Confident, Skilful

Part of our Vienna Weekend, this course offers a welcoming space to deepen your understanding of Lieder. Led by art-song specialist Anna Tilbrook, you'll work on prepared songs in masterclass-style sessions, receiving guidance on text, singer-pianist partnership, phrasing, tone, and expression helping you bring greater sensitivity and colour to this rich repertoire.

On Saturday evening, enjoy Schubert's Winterreise performed by Anna Tilbrook and James Gilchrist, with a talk by guest expert Katy Hamilton.

£436 (€320) 26/252

String Trios **Vienna Weekend**

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 Oct

Type Strings

Tutor Michael Gemmill, Hannah Horton, Julian Metzger

Ability Confident, Skilful

Part of our Vienna Weekend, the string trio is often overshadowed by the quartet, but its repertoire is every bit as captivating - full of clarity, conversation, and warmth. Immerse yourself in music by Beethoven, Pleyel, and Naumann - a carefully chosen selection of works that showcase the variety and beauty of the trio form. Whether you're a seasoned chamber musician or discovering the joys of trio playing for the first time, this course promises a rewarding journey of musical discovery.

On Saturday, enjoy Schubert's Winterreise performed by Anna Tilbrook and James Gilchrist, with a talk by Katy Hamilton.

£436 (£320) **26/253**

Autumn Mixed Chamber Music

Monday 5 – Thursday 8 Oct

Type Strings, Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Brass

Tutor Steve Bingham, Brenda Stewart, Margaret Archibald, Nigel Clayton

Ability Skilful

Our Mixed Chamber Music course offers you the chance to play in newly formed chamber ensembles of various sizes. Get ready to discover new musical challenges as you tackle a range of repertoire, including music set by our course tutors alongside your own choices and suggestions.

£606 (£461) **26/349**

PRICING: Residential rates are shown in bold. Non-residential rates are shown in brackets.

Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble **New**

Friday 9 – Sunday 11 Oct

Type Early music

Tutor Jeremy West

Ability Confident, Skilful

This course is designed for players of the cornett and sackbutt to come together and indulge their passion. Providing total immersion and an undiluted cornett and sackbutt ensemble. This course offers a fabulous opportunity to indulge yourself in a soundworld where blend, balance and tuning will be the prime objectives.

£426 (£310) **26/254**

Autumn Intermediate Strings

Monday 12 – Thursday 15 Oct

Type Strings

Tutor Janet Hicks and Willie Hicks

Ability Improver, Confident

This course gives you the opportunity to play as part of a newly formed string orchestra in a celebratory weekend tailored to intermediate string players. Enjoy tackling new repertoire in a vibrant range of styles and keys, with friendly and encouraging coaching from mother and daughter musicians, violinist Jackie Hicks and pianist Willie Hicks.

£606 (£461) **26/350**



Insightful Pianism

Monday 12 – Thursday 15 Oct

Type Piano/Keyboard

Tutor Heli Ignatius-Fleet

Ability Confident, Skilful

Our Insightful Pianism course gives you fresh ideas and new insights to transform your piano playing. You'll be invited to try out new methods and approaches in a friendly and supportive atmosphere and leave feeling inspired, with a renewed sense of joy, passion and motivation for your instrument. We'll work together in a holistic and in-depth way to explore the musical intentions of your chosen pieces and how to bring them to life.

£606 (£461) **26/351**

Mixed Chamber Trios

Friday 16 – Sunday 18 Oct

Type Strings, Woodwind,
Piano/Keyboard

Tutor Lisa Nelsen, Julian Metzger
and Michelle Santiago

Ability Confident, Skilful

Discover the possibilities of music for flute, cello and piano in this inspiring weekend course, where you'll get to meet, play and perform with like-minded musicians in a range of duos and trios. Develop your individual technique and ensemble playing in a friendly and intimate setting, with coaching on hand from professional players.

£436 (£320) **26/255**

The Clarsach and Folk Harp Course

Friday 16 – Sunday 18 Oct

Type Folk/Traditional, Other

Tutor Lily Neill and Steph West

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

This popular course celebrating the beauty and power of harp music. Uncover the harp's versatility and come together with harpists of all levels to learn and play music from a range of genres and styles, with a focus on celtic and folk music, jazz and blues.

In partnership with the Clarsach Society (London & South East Branch).

£426 (£310) **26/256**

The Wonderful World of Musical Theatre

Monday 19 – Thursday 22 Oct

Type Vocal/choral

Tutor Libby Egwuba and
Stephen Dickinson

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Develop your singing and performance skills as you step into the wonderful world of Musical Theatre, from early works by Rodgers and Hammerstein to today's most loved musicals. Develop your singing, acting and performance skills in a supportive masterclass environment.

£606 (£461) **26/352**

Leading From Behind

Monday 19 – Thursday 22 Oct

Type Strings, Woodwind, Piano/
Keyboard, Brass

Tutor Nigel Clayton and Imma Setiadi

Ability Confident, Skilful

Discover new layers of musicality and interpretation as you explore the art of leading and following within your chamber ensemble. Led by experienced pianists and collaborative players - this innovative and enjoyable course is designed to offer pre-existing chamber ensembles new musical skills and insights to deepen your playing.

£606 (£461) **26/353**

Baroque Trio Sonatas with ZAREK Trio

Friday 23 – Monday 26 Oct

Type Early music

Tutor Rebecca Harris, Oliver John
Ruthven and Jan Zahourek

Ability Confident, Skilful

Experience the joy and thrill of live chamber music in this course focused on the rich repertoire of the Baroque trio sonata. Join our tutors who specialise in historically informed performance on period instruments. Receive expert coaching with an in-depth look at your choice of Baroque trio sonatas and develop your interpretation, musicality and ensemble playing skills in this enlightening course, taught in A=415.

£616 (£471) **26/354**

Autumn Saxes

Friday 23 – Sunday 25 Oct

Type Woodwind

Tutor Gerard McChrystal and
Alastair Penman

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Enjoy the thrill of playing the saxophone together with other saxophonists in our popular Autumn Saxes course.

This course is all about embracing variety, so in one session you might be grooving to Van Morrison's 'Moondance' in an octet and in the next, tackling Bach in a quartet. We'll journey through all kinds of music from classical and jazz to pop and folk, and deepen your playing and musicianship skills in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

£426 (£310) **26/257**

Symphony in a Weekend: Mendelssohn's 'Scottish'

Friday 30 Oct – Sunday 1 Nov

Type Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Other

Tutor Tedesca Quartet and Friends

Ability Confident, Skilful

Delve deep into the orchestral beauty of Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No 3 in A minor, Op 56, known as the Scottish Symphony. Gain a deeper understanding of this masterful symphony, working in manageable sections with plenty of advice on orchestral playing, intonation and musicality - before you perform the work in full on the final day.

£426 (£310) **26/258**

PRICING: Residential rates are shown in bold. Non-residential rates are shown in brackets.

For full course details, head to benslowmusic.org



Discovery Day: Harpsichord for Pianists New

31 October

Type Piano/Keyboard, Early music

Tutor Claire Williams

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

This course, taught in informal masterclass style, provides an opportunity to try some Baroque repertoire on the harpsichord, as a way of gaining more insight into historical style. We will cover topics such as touch and articulation, phrasing, rhythm, choice of tempo, appropriate ornamentation, and interpretation.

£125 26/105

Chamber Music for Wind and Piano

Monday 2 – Thursday 5 Nov

Type Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Brass

Tutor Robert Codd, Sue Dent, Stephen Gutman and Ian Mitchell

Ability Skilful

Join pianist Stephen Gutman, horn player Sue Dent, clarinettist Ian Mitchell, and bassoonist Robert Codd for an immersive journey through some of the finest repertoire for piano and wind instruments. This course offers in-depth exploration of ensemble music-making, with a focus on the unique repertoire for piano and wind.

£606 (£461) 26/355

Piano Duets with Nigel and Imma

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 Nov

Type Piano/Keyboard

Tutor Nigel Clayton and Imma Setiadi

Ability Confident, Skilful

Be guided through some of the diverse and rewarding repertoire written for piano duet, and supported with the particular skills needed to play as a four-hand team. Pre-formed pairs and individual applicants are welcome, and although this is a piano duet course, there may be scope for work on two pianos.

£426 (£310) 26/260

17th-Century Strings New

Monday 9 – Thursday 12 Nov

Type Strings, Early music

Tutor Oliver Webber

Ability Confident, Skilful

This course will encompass string ensemble repertoire from approximately 1600–1700, taught at A=415 for period instruments. It includes works from well-known composers such as Monteverdi, Lully and Biber, but also a selection of lesser-known figures who excelled in writing for strings: Thomas Simpson, Legrenzi, and Muffat, among others.

£606 (£461) 26/356

For full course details, head to benslowmusic.org

Bassoon Extravaganza

Monday 9 – Thursday 12 Nov

Type Woodwind

Tutor Martin Gatt and Rosie Cow

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Enjoy this deep dive course into the bassoon and develop your ensemble and technical skills amongst other like-minded players. We'll explore a range of repertoire in a workshop style, with coaching and guidance to help you take your playing to the next level.

£606 (£461) **26/357**

String Quartets with Coull Quartet

Friday 13 - Sunday 15 Nov (2-nights)

Friday 13 - Monday 16 Nov (3-nights)

Type Strings

Tutor Coull Quartet

Ability Confident, Skilful

Join us for an inspiring weekend and elevate your string quartet's playing with friendly and professional support, as the ever-popular Coull Quartet return to Benslow Music to offer their expert insight into all aspects of quartet playing, from achieving balance and intonation, to exploring tonal colours, phrasing and musical style.

2-night option

£436 (£320) **26/261**

3-night option

£616 (£471) **26/358**

PRICING: Residential rates are shown in bold. Non-residential rates are shown in brackets.

Speed Dating for Strings and Piano

Monday 16 – Thursday 19 Nov

Type Strings, Piano/Keyboard

Tutor Tedesca Quartet

Ability Skilful

If you're looking to find that perfect musical partnership, this course offers a unique opportunity to 'speed date' with a variety of string and piano players where you'll play in different groups every time. Come away feeling inspired, and connect with new collaborators to further expand your music-making.

£606 (£461) **26/359**

Quintessential Clarinets

Monday 16 – Thursday 19 Nov

Type Woodwind

Tutor Margaret Archibald and Daniel King Smith

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Quintessential Clarinets gives you the chance to develop your clarinet playing in a collaborative environment with plenty of one-to-one support. We'll be focussing on the rich repertoire of music for clarinet and piano, with guidance from the piano and engaging masterclass sessions on technique, tone and musicianship.

£606 (£461) **26/360**



Consorted Viols

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 Nov (2-nights)
Thursday 19 – Sunday 22 Nov (3-nights)

Type	Strings, Early music
Tutor	Alison Crum, John Bryan, Ibi Aziz and Peter Wendland
Ability	Improver, Confident, Skilful

Working with the Rose Consort of Viols, refine your ensemble's playing, working on music of your choice from early Renaissance music of the 1500s to contemporary pieces. You'll leave with a deeper understanding of the richness and historical significance of viol music and experience the joy of consort playing at its best.

2-night option

£426 (£310) **26/361**

3-night option

£606 (£461) **26/262**

Mostly Gilbert and Sullivan

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 Nov

Type	Vocal/choral
Tutor	Brian Parsons
Ability	Improver, Confident, Skilful

This welcoming and fun-filled course is open to anyone who'd like to give singing a try! We'll be focusing on Gilbert & Sullivan's comic operas giving you the chance to try out different theatrical styles and characters to suit your voice. You are also welcome to bring other songs and ballads from the Victorian and Edwardian periods.

£426 (£310) **26/263**

Recorder Festival

Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 Nov

Type	Woodwind
Tutor	Caoimhe de Paor, Caroline Jones, Alyson Lewin
Ability	Learner, Improver, Confident, Skilful

Play, learn and be inspired by other recorder players who share a passion for this wonderful instrument. Enjoy a variety of sessions designed to nurture your skills and build confidence. Discover a huge variety of music from early works of the 15th century to contemporary pieces - as we celebrate the versatility of this powerful instrument.

You can also enjoy an evening concert from world-class professional recorder players (tickets included in your course fee).

£436 (£320) **26/264**

Wind Ensembles with London Myriad Ensemble

Friday 27 - Sunday 29 November

Type	Woodwind, Brass
Tutor	London Myriad Ensemble
Ability	Confident, Skilful

This unique course explores how an established wind ensemble functions, offering tailored advice to your ensemble, and looking in-depth at how to improve your playing and rehearsal skills. Players from the London Myriad Ensemble will share advice on rehearsal technique and performance issues as well as specific tips for each instrument where needed.

£426 (£310) **26/265**

Winter Late Starter String Orchestra Day

Sunday 29 Nov

Type	Strings
Tutor	Maria Prowse and Ros Woodin
Ability	Learner, Improver

This one-day workshop will introduce you to the incredible feeling of playing together in a chamber ensemble with other musicians, designed for adult beginner and improver players of the violin, viola and cello. You'll get comfortable playing in a group environment, with helpful tips, games and skills in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

£125 **26/106**

Group Quartets with Tedesca String Quartet

Monday 30 Nov – Thursday 3 Dec

Type	Strings
Tutor	Tedesca Quartet
Ability	Confident, Skilful

Join professional musicians from the Tedesca Quartet and other like minded players in this large scale group chamber course. Delve deeper into the intricate and rousing music of Brahms's String Quartet No 2 in A minor. The Tedesca approach involves sitting and playing within the group as large-scale chamber music.

£606 (£461) **26/362**

Christmas Flutes

Monday 30 Nov – Wednesday 2 Dec

Type	Woodwind
Tutor	Elizabeth Walker and Sarah Murphy
Ability	Learner, Improver, Confident, Skilful

Embrace the festive season with joyful music-making and take part in our festive flute ensemble. Under the guidance of tutors Liz and Sarah, enjoy relaxed and fun ensemble sessions that explore a range of festive repertoire, from timeless carols to seasonal classics.

Players will have the chance to perform on piccolo, alto, and bass flutes where available, discovering the full colour and richness of the flute family.

£426 (£310) **26/266**

Festive Big Band: Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite New

Friday 4 - Sunday 6 December

Type	Strings, Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Brass, Jazz, Other
Tutor	Joy Ellis and Adam Osmianski
Ability	Confident, Skilful

Experience the joy of playing in our Festive Big Band as we dive into this fabulous interpretations of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, created by one of the greatest jazz composers of all time. As the course finale we'll celebrate with an hour-long performance on Sunday afternoon.

£426 (£310) **26/267**



A Victorian Christmas Weekend

Friday 4 – Sunday 6 Dec

Type Mixed

Tutor David Sutton-Anderson and Avril Anderson

Ability Learner, Improver, Confident, Skilful

This short course, open to singers and instrumentalists of any standard, provides the opportunity of participating in a Victorian Christmas Musical Gathering. Expect Victorian carols, parlour songs and instrumental party pieces. The course will culminate in an informal Victorian Christmas performance to invite family and friends to.

£426 (£310) 26/268

Jazz Improvisation for Improvers

Monday 7 – Wednesday 9 Dec

Type Strings, Woodwind, Piano/Keyboard, Brass, Jazz, Other

Tutor Chris Pyne

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Trombone player and tutor Chris Pyne is here to demystify the wonderful world of jazz improvisation in this informal and welcoming short course. Whether you've tried improvisation before or you're a complete beginner, if you've ever wondered how jazz bands play together so effortlessly, this is for you.

£426 (£310) 26/269

Spontaneous Social Piano

Monday 7 – Thursday 10 Dec

Type Piano/Keyboard

Tutor Lucinda Mackworth-Young

Ability Improver, Confident, Skilful

Get ready to play any piano, anywhere, spontaneously with or without sheet music! With practical strategies and methods to help develop your improvisation and listening skills, you'll look at solos and duets, learn how to find and play chords to accompany singing including Happy Birthday and Christmas carols.

£606 (£461) 26/363

String and Piano Ensembles with Bingham Quartet and Nigel Clayton

Friday 11 – Sunday 13 Dec (2-nights)

Friday 11 – Monday 14 Dec (3-nights)

Type Strings, Piano/Keyboard

Tutor Bingham Quartet and Nigel Clayton

Ability Confident, Skilful

Whether you come as a string quartet, a piano quintet, a trio or sextet, this all-embracing chamber music course offers in-depth help with your chosen repertoire. You can choose from our two or three night options, and enjoy a glittering concert from the Bingham Quartet and Nigel Clayton on the Friday evening, included in your course fee.

2-night option

£436 (£320) 26/270

3-night option

£616 (£471) 26/364

For full course details, head to benslowmusic.org

Do you have an instrument tucked away that you wish someone could use?

Instruments are made to be played

We have talented, young musicians waiting to borrow good quality violins, violas, cellos, bows and wind instruments.

Talk to us about how your instrument can help a gifted and committed student fulfil their musical potential.

Email instrumentloan@benslowmusic.org
or call us on 01462 420748
Registered charity no: 313755

CONCERT SERIES 2026

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Wed 5 August
7:30pm | Paul Eshelby and friends
Jazz Classics |
| Fri 18 September
7:30pm | Primrose Piano Quartet
Music for piano, violin, viola and cello |
| Fri 2 October
7:30pm | James Gilchrist and Anna Tilbrook
Schubert's Winterreise for tenor and piano |
| Fri 16 October
7:30pm | Lisa Nelsen, Julian Metzger and Michelle Santiago
Music for flute, cello and piano |
| Sat 24 October
7:30pm | ZAREKTrio
Beautiful and intimate baroque sonatas and trios |
| Fri 13 November
7:30pm | Coull Quartet
Music for string quartets |
| Tue 24 November
7:30pm | Insieme
Music for recorders, voice, strings and piano from the baroque to the present day |
| Fri 11 December
7:30pm | Bingham Quartet with Nigel Clayton
Festive concert finale with chamber music for strings and piano |

Join us as we host an array of concerts that fill our purpose-built concert halls with the joy of professional and emerging musicians in intimate settings.

Tickets can be bought in advance online or on the door if available. Proceeds support the work of Benslow Music, a registered charity.

Tickets: £20
Half price for under 27s

More concerts coming soon. See our website for the full programme and details.



PLAY AND STAY

"A tranquil setting in beautiful surroundings that enabled focussed work."



Make your own musical adventure

Craft your own musical retreat at Benslow for your duo, trio, quartet or small ensemble. You'll enjoy full board plus access to practice rooms, our music library and stunning gardens.

Visit us

Benslow Music
Benslow Lane
Hitchin SG4 9RB

Contact us

benslowmusic.org
01462 459446

Follow us

📧 [benslowmusic](https://www.benslowmusic.org)
📘 [benslowmusic](https://www.benslowmusic.org)

Benslow Music is the trading name of Benslow Music Trust (registered charity no. 313663 and company limited by guarantee no. 408404), Benslow Music Instrument Loan Scheme (registered charity no. 313755) and Benslow Music Enterprises Ltd (a limited company no. 10967344).